

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this patent application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments, and the following remarks. Claims 2, 3, 5 and 7-10 are in the application. Claims 7 and 8 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner rejected claims 7 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §112. Applicant has amended claims 7 and 8 accordingly.

The Examiner rejected claims 2, 8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over *Bertels* and over *Bertels* in view of *Lorcher*. The Examiner rejected claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Bertels* in view of *Persson*, and over *Bertels* in view of *Lorcher* and *Persson*, claim 5 as being unpatentable over *Bertels* in view of *Kunz et al.* and over *Bertels* in view of *Lorcher* and *Kunz et al.*, and claim 7 and as being unpatentable over *Bertels* in view of *Persson* and *Frings et al.* and over *Bertels* in view of *Lorcher*, *Persson* and *Frings et al.* Claim 10 was rejected as being unpatentable over *Bertels* in view of *Frings et al.* and over *Bertels* in view of *Lorcher* and *Frings*

et al. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Regarding *Bertels*, the Examiner states that the length of the soldering connection is about 4mm, which is about 2 times the thickness of the iron/steel sheet. Applicant submits that this calculation is incorrect. As the Examiner states, the steel plate 31 is 2mm thick. The total width b of the welding seam is 8mm. However, the distance a between the light metal plate 32 and the steel plate 31 is also 2mm, as the plates do not butt up against each other. This clearly means that the aggregate covering of the light metal plate 32, as well as the steel plate 31, by the welding seam, is:

$$b - a = 8 - 2 = 6\text{mm.}$$

Thus, 6mm is available for the welding seam. Since symmetrical conditions are assumed (and are shown in the drawings), only $6 \div 2 = 3\text{mm}$ remains for the covering of steel plate 32. Since the steel plate 32 is 2mm thick, the welding seam that covers the steel plate is only 1.5 times the thickness of the steel plate. This is only half of the covering required in claim 8 of the present application. A measurement 100% larger

than the one shown in Bertels cannot be considered obvious over Bertels. Claim 10 also claims the same features as claim 8, so claim 10 is also patentable over Bertels.

None of the secondary references disclose this width ratio either.

Accordingly, applicants submit that independent claims 8 and 10, as well as the dependent claims, are patentable over the cited references, taken either singly or in combination. Early allowance of the amended claims is respectfully requested.

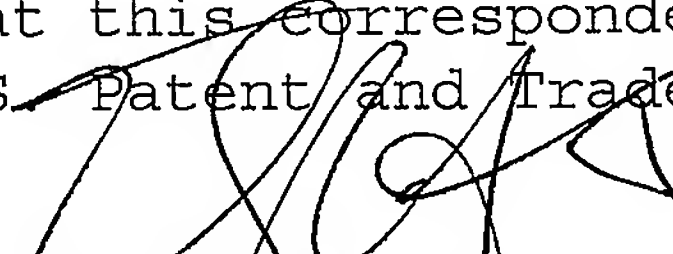
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being filed electronically in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on May 1, 2009.



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